

Supreme Court Clerk
P.O. Box 30052
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Sheila Reynolds
1596 Champaign
Lincoln Park, Michigan 48146

Re: Court Rule No. 2003-47



I am a retired employee of National Steel and former member of United Steel Workers of America Local 1299. My union brought it to my attention, that I may have been exposed to asbestos and offered a chest x-ray. Upon getting the results of the x-ray a physician told me that I have asbestos present in both of my lungs. My union then contacted an attorney regarding this issue. I am now aware that Court Rule No. 2003-47 has been proposed to the Michigan Supreme Court. This Court Rule will directly affect my case. It is astounding that the asbestos industry is attempting to deny working Americans their constitutional rights to jury trials when harmed by corporate misconduct. The Michigan and United States Constitutions make it clear that judges are not to make the law but rather interpret the law. By the adopting Court Rule No. 2003-47, judges would in fact be making a law and not interpreting the law that is already in effect. Why is the Michigan Supreme Court even considering taking steps that would effectively change the law by denying Michigan asbestos disease victims, such as myself, their right to a jury trial? The real crisis in Michigan is the failure of corporations to take responsibility for their actions and the willingness of big business and certain conservative republican judges to blame the victims of corporate misconduct instead of holding the corporations accountable. It is as if

those of us in Michigan that have asbestos disease are being blamed because we have it. It is the responsibility and the fault of the asbestos industry. The Michigan Supreme Court should not disregard this issue. It is a fact that in the last four years there has been only one asbestos case tried to verdict in the entire State of Michigan. All other cases settle before trial. The asbestos industry is responsible for the Michigan residents that have asbestos disease. They should be held responsible, not the victims of the harm that they have done. Working class citizens should not be further denied their constitutional rights and those who are responsible for the outcome of their actions, should be held accountable for their actions. Those who have been harmed by their actions should be heard, not ignored. I greatly appreciate your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sheila Reynolds". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large initial 'S'.

Sheila Reynolds